

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 4, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

We invite you to join us later this month to tour drought-stricken areas of North Dakota and visit with farmers and ranchers who continue to struggle in the face of devastating weather conditions.

We are hopeful that after meeting with these hardworking American men and women, and seeing first hand the destruction caused by this ongoing natural disaster, you will end your opposition to providing desperately needed assistance for agriculture producers across the country.

While this weather-related disaster does not have a name, and has not received around the clock coverage by the news media, its victims have sustained very real losses and are deserving of your attention and compassion, as well as the assistance of the federal government.

Mr. President, some time ago you traveled to Fargo, North Dakota and told our farmers that when they needed you, you'd be there for them. Well, they now need you, and we encourage you to make good on your commitment to them.

The wide-reaching and destructive effects of this drought – nationwide, nearly half of all counties are currently experiencing extremely dry or drought conditions – have led the Senate Appropriations Committee to include our emergency disaster assistance package in the fiscal year 2007 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

We hope that seeing the drought conditions for yourself, and hearing directly from American farmers how desperately they need your assistance, will persuade you to support our effort rather than kill it once again with a veto threat.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to hosting you in North Dakota.

Sincerely,



Byron L. Dorgan
U.S. Senator

Kent Conrad
U.S. Senator

Earl Pomeroy
Member of Congress